

October 12, 1929

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# AVIATION

*The Oldest American Aeronautical Magazine*

*Start* OF THE 1929 NATIONAL AIR TOUR

THE NATIONAL *Safety* COUNCIL MEETING

SELLING AND SERVICING *Parachutes*



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**Lighter than Iron**

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NEW YORK CHICAGO PHILADELPHIA CLEVELAND PITTSBURGH



September 12th, 1939

The WACO AIRPLANE COMPANY,  
TROY, N.Y.

Gentlemen:

When I first considered ordering the Thompson-Waco Model 12, I hesitated to use the Bohnalite Aluminum Wing as I had not yet found out how they were made. I had not yet found out how they were made. I had not yet found out how they were made.

I had heard rumors to the effect that the Thompson Wing was a rather fast landing speed, and as I had been flying only one year, I was not sure of my own ability to land a wing landing at high altitudes.

A few previous landings, however, convinced me that the Bohnalite Wing was not only easy to fly, but that it seemed to fly in a smooth, swinging like action, to hold on a course like any other wing I have ever flown.

During the whole time I have flown the Bohnalite Wing I had no trouble with the wing structure, and was really very much surprised when the wing in use was with me. The wing was made with interesting work of the Bohnalite Wing.

I want to thank Waco for making the Bohnalite Wing so easy to fly. The Bohnalite Wing is not only easy to fly, but it is really very much surprised when the wing in use was with me. The wing was made with interesting work of the Bohnalite Wing.

Yours very truly,  
*Walter D. Bennett*



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## Corsair miles in the air are in the millions

In all three types, Corsairs enjoy a military background of trustworthy performance which may well serve as a guide to the purchaser seeking the highest grade ship for commercial or sport use. Corsairs have rapid climb, an exceptional speed range and ease of control peculiarly their own.

As seaplanes, Corsairs thrive under exacting service with the Navy and Marine Corps. As amphibians, developed for use on the new aircraft carriers, Corsairs offer all the

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Powered with the dependable Wasp engine the Corsair is the ideal ship—not alone for military purposes, but for commercial and private use as well.

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DIVISION OF UNITED AIRCRAFT & TRANSPORT CORPORATION

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Give your sport plane *ALL* the advantages of *power, speed and fast climbing*. Specify the engine that's designed primarily for sport plane service. The improved Axelson Engine Type B will give any sport plane new life, new performance, finer control. Expect more service from an Axelson! You'll get it.

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## In beauty, style and luxury your planes need reach no "ceiling"

Du Pont aircraft finishes offer unlimited possibilities of originality in styling—give your ships an individual smartness

WITH the modern high development of mechanical design in aircraft—present emphasis must now be placed on color, beauty, styling in ships for private owners, beauty and convenience in the same importance that they hold in mass car design. Commercial passenger planes demand the same comfort and luxury of fittings that are found in buses, yachts and pleasure cars.

To aid the aircraft manufacturer in this intensive styling of his planes,

du Pont provides a complete line of finishes and unusual finishing materials specially designed for air service. For wings—clear dope, pigmented dopes, standard Army and Navy finishing materials. For fuselages—Duro, fuselage varnish and spar varnish. For other wood and metal parts—special primers and sealers, several stains, dopeproof paints and lacquers. In fact for every part of the ship, the du Pont line provides a finish in its highest state of modern development.

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The du Pont organization maintains a special department for the study of color trends and color materials. The du Pont Color Advisory Service is in constant touch with aircraft styling in both America and Europe. It will gladly cooperate with you in planning up-to-the-minute lacquers for your ships.

Complete information on any du Pont product for airplane use will be furnished either by mail or by a qualified representative.



Du Pont Pyralin and Fabrikoid supply the comforts and refinements that brand your ships—luxurious."

**CABIN-COMFORT!** Cockpit convenience!—These two factors play an increasingly important part in the successful marketing of planes.

And, for this reason, progressive manufacturers spare no effort to develop added refinements for their ships.

Jealous assistance to the aircraft stylist is offered by du Pont Pyralin and Fabrikoid. Extensive light, ideally durable, and beautiful

is the most modern sense of the word, these materials are uniquely fitted for air service.

Pyralin in various colors and effects provides transparent windows, instrument boards and wing lights of smart appearance and unusual availability. Its unusual characteristics offer amazing opportunities for other original applications. Complete information on Pyralin and its many present uses will be furnished on request.

Fabrikoid brings airplane upholstery up-to-date. Its lightness and toughness unmatchably distinguish it as a material desired for air service. And the design of the new Nemours Anoplate Fabric expresses vividly the beauty and gaiety of this new modern mode of travel.

Du Pont technical men are ready to co-operate wholeheartedly in original styling with these materials. Please write direct to the division concerned.

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**Du Pont Dopes**—The du Pont line of aircraft finishing materials includes dope, varnish, enamel and pigmented dope. They are all tested in the du Pont Laboratory—proven to resist as well as in the laboratory. Flexible and highly brush capable, the Air Dop and the Navy have appeared these products for their respective uses. Available in a wide variety of highly visible colors.

**Du Pont Paints and Varnishes**—Du Pont develops here dope and a complete line of paints and varnishes including Dupont Plast Paint, Varnish, Pigment Varnish and Aircraft Lacquer.



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Newburgh, New York

### AIR-TESTED MATERIALS

**Du Pont Fabrikoid**—Durable, flexible, light, and tough material developed by the du Pont Laboratory. It is a high-grade woven rayon knit and treated with a special finish for its intended use. Available in a wide variety of highly visible colors.

**Du Pont Pyralin**—A strong, durable, light, and tough material developed by the du Pont Laboratory. It is a high-grade woven rayon knit and treated with a special finish for its intended use. Available in a wide variety of highly visible colors.

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## Safety

Continental's safety is subject to great stress. Failure of these parts is safeguarded by serving each unadorned rod in the motor. Knife pin are shown where they project beyond the motor rod flange. Locking pins in these slots and are secured to the motor rod with screws which are held from rotating by washers turned up against the flat of the head and down inside each pin.



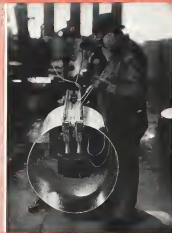
There is no quivering of the fabric or quaking of the fuselage when the Continental Red Seal Airplane Engine takes the air. Vibration has been reduced and the plane itself is as steady as the hum of the engine that carries it along. For Continental has considered smoothness and strength of paramount importance in building this engine. Smoothness that shows in every flight and strength that prolongs this smoothness for years. The Continental Red Seal Airplane Engine combines light weight and perfect balance with rugged dependability and then adds to these qualities a lack of vibration that surprises pilots and passengers alike.

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Office and Factory: Detroit, Michigan

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As pioneers in every phase of oxyacetylene welding and cutting, the three long-experienced engineering and service organizations of these companies can help you in the proper application of oxwelding in your present work and to new production activities.



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Sales office in  
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64 Linde plants—45 Prest-O-Lite plants—156 Oxygen Warehouse stocks—155 Acetylene Warehouse stocks—16 Apparatus Warehouse stocks—255 Carbide Warehouse stocks







At right: Test track at Aviation Co.



Below: When one layer of fabric is laid on top of another, the two separate on each side.



Below: When one layer of fabric is laid on top of another, the two separate on each side.



Below: Cook's paint is laid on after an even thickness of one coat. The first coat is laid on first.

## You can stake your life on it! Five Will Crack One Won't!

The photograph at the top of this advertisement is not a beautiful thing to look upon. But to the aviation man who wants a fabric finish that won't crack, it tells a marvelous story.

The rack shown in the photograph is a test rack for fabric finishes. The panels on this rack carry dope and fabric finishes of six well-known makers of aviation paint. For many, many weeks, the pitiless sun has beaten down on them. Rain has poured over them. Hitting, tearing wind has whirled under, over and around them.

And then, men who must know the toughest, most durable fabric finish for an airplane have walked up and hit each panel on the rack. They have hit each panel hard.

Some panels cracked with the first blow. Some cracked after two or three blows. Only a few panels failed to crack, regardless of the number of blows.

During all of these tests, not a single Cook Paint & Varnish Co. panel cracked!

Tests like these explain why many prominent airplane manufacturers and fleet operators specify Cook's Fabric Finish for their planes. A similar test will put Cook's Paints on the plane of any man who wants the toughest, most durable fabric finish that money can buy. And the reason is obvious.

Airplane fabric prepared with Cook's Dope and Cook's Ameronite Fabric Finish will not crack. It will not crack even though you bend it double. It will not crack regardless of exposure to the wind and sun—to heat and cold—to rain, snow or ice.

We have an interesting story for any aviation man interested in the most durable fabric finish for airplanes. It is fully explained in the Cook's Flying Plan, which we will be glad to send you on request. Write for it today.



American Cirrus Engines, Inc.  
Belleville, New Jersey.

Dear Sirs:

Congratulations!  
If I had the ability to fly the Great Lakes Triplane as efficiently as the American Cirrus Motor performed, I am sure I would have won the Miami-Cleveland Race.

You may be interested to know that the American Cirrus was running 2100 R. P. M. wide open the entire way and I want to congratulate you on its reliability.

Yours very truly

Bert Hassel

Bert Hassel.

1483 miles of Full Throttle. Two track Great Lakes Triplane, one of which carried each engine and seventy-five pounds of spare parts and baggage, a total load of 600 pounds including pilot, flew in the Miami to Cleveland Derby and finished second and fourth respectively.



AMERICAN CIRRUS ENGINES, INC.

WASHINGTON AVENUE, BELLEVILLE, N. J.

COOK PAINT & VARNISH COMPANY

Airplane Division: 2236 North Broadway, St. Louis, Mo.

FACTORIES AT ST. LOUIS, KANSAS CITY, FORT WORTH, HOUSTON, CINCINNATI





## Great Lakes Scores Again!

**D**URING the National Air Races at Cleveland, Great Lakes proved again—and most convincingly—that a sturdy, rugged, lightweight ship, designed and built for training may also possess the speed and extreme maneuverability of a sport pursuit job.

Here are the results, in races open to planes powered with motors of 510 cubic inches. And remember—Great Lakes' American Curtiss Motor has a displacement of only 340 cubic inches.

**Miami to Cleveland Derby**—Streamlined Great Lakes Sport Trainer with Charlie Meyers at the controls, finished second. Great Lakes Sport Trainer, strictly stock model, flown by Bert Hassell with baggage, fuel and a mechanic finished fifth.

**Women's Sixty Mile Closed Course Race**—Strictly stock Great Lakes Sport Trainers, piloted by Lady Mary Heath and Blanche Wilcox Nepea, finished second and third.

**Men's Sixty Mile Closed Course Race**—Streamlined Great Lakes Sport Trainers, flown by Charlie Meyers, took fourth place against a large field.

A thorough knowledge of aviation engineering, with a consequent perfection of design, plus practical experience in standardized production of aircraft in a large, well organized and modern plant, has made the Great Lakes Sport Trainer dominant among light planes.

Just the kind of ship you have always hoped someone would build—ideal for training, for business or for sport flying. A new booklet describes it in detail. Send for it.

**GREAT LAKES AIRCRAFT CORPORATION CLEVELAND**



Manufactured under U. S. Department of Commerce Approved Type Certificate Number 238

# Aviation's most valued feature **SPEED! SPEED!**

...with safety Aviation's greatest attribute. For speed saves time—and "time's the stuff life's made of!"

Realizing these facts, The M. A. Long Company has joined its organization to beat all building records. Where great speed has become essential, greater speed has been the answer.

On March 8, 1929, the Berliner-Joyce Aircraft Corporation awarded the contract for the construction of its airplane manufacturing plant to The M. A. Long

Company. On May 17, 1929, Berliner-Joyce moved in! The M. A. Long Company eclipsed its promise by five full days! ... and this in spite of nine days rain ... a real record-breaking feat.

Speed with safety is essential—both in aviation and aviation construction. The fastest moving industry in the world needs quick cooperation.

If you are contemplating the construction of an airplane factory, an airport, or any building of kindred nature, communicate with us by air mail. Our answer will be quick; our work efficient.

## The M. A. LONG Co.

Engineers and Constructors

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*SINCE  
Reconstruction of the  
Berliner-Joyce  
Factory, arranged  
for the construction of  
the largest privately  
owned plant in the  
world has been awarded to  
The M. A. Long Company*

*Direct aerial photographs of the  
Berliner-Joyce Aviation Factory*

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Another great passenger and express airline chooses Allmetal Flamingo transports. Pictured in part of the Flamingo fleet being built for the Great Southern Airways, to connect Los Angeles and the East.

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These low operating costs are arrived at after thousands of miles of operation. The Allmetal Flamingo cabin transport accommodates seven passengers and pilot, plus 500 pounds of mail or express; has 4 to 5 hours fuel range, high speed of 140 m.p.h. with a Hoveler or Cyclone, 132 m.p.h. with a Wingo. Write for information on the exclusive features and detailed operating cost data. Demonstration flights in United States or Canada. Seaplane routes available. Equipment loans negotiated.

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METAL AIRCRAFT CORPORATION OF CINCINNATI

# AVIATION

THE OLDEST AMERICAN AERONAUTICAL MAGAZINE

A MONTHLY PUBLICATION ESTABLISHED 1913

EDWARD P. WARNER, Editor

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## A Sad Occasion

SECRETARY MACCRACKEN'S determination to leave the government service having remained firm in the face of all persuasions, he has finally transferred to other hands the work of the office that he built up from nothing. It would be absurd to sound any note of farewell, for whatever the new activity upon which he decides to embark, William P. MacCracken, Jr., will remain a leader in American aeronautics. His words will always command attention on their own account, without the necessity of depending upon any governmental position as a sounding board to magnify their volume.

The work in the Department of Commerce is but a passing phase of his career, but in the history of American aeronautics it has been epochal.

The regulation of aeronautics has presented a tricky problem in every country, but in most cases the regulatory authorities have had a chance to grow up with the job. None of them have ever had such a task as confronted Secretary MacCracken three years ago. The law threw upon him the obligation of learning aircraft and pilots forthwith, and before the organizations that he assembled had had time to get acquainted with its surroundings it was inundated with demands for immediate action upon thousands of phases and pilots that had so far been operating in blindfold freedom from any sort of control. No man ever had a chance to make himself more thoroughly unpopular than the Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Aviation. Not only has the first incumbent of that office escaped the approbrium that posthumous furor has for him, but he leaves Washington the possessor of the virtually unanimous admiration and affection of the aeronautical community. His

wisdom, his judgment, his tact and his success as a chairman and coordinator, and his learning in the law have commanded equal admiration.

Secretary MacCracken has enjoyed a great privilege, commensurate with his great responsibility. The first holder of an office has the opportunity, if he lays it to foundation well, of shaping the course of all of his successors. The Federal control of American aviation will continue along the lines laid down under MacCracken's guidance. General decisions were taken once and for all in the summer of 1926. Only one man could be Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Aviation starting from scratch with a clean sheet upon which to write the record.

IN THIS VALUABLE Secretary MacCracken's work, there has been a loyal effort to preserve a properly balanced responsibility of law. The endeavor is in vain. Personal feeling is too strong. The writer of this editorial was Bill MacCracken's colleague for two and a half years. To know him intimately and to see how he worked was to understand why and how he has achieved signal success where there were so many paths that would have led to failure. To be acquainted with him in any degree has been to understand why he commands universal confidence and how he has made himself one of the outstanding figures of Washington. He will be missed from the life there, as the aircraft industry will miss him from the work that he has been doing, and as his associates in the Department of Commerce, great as is their affection for the new chief of the Department's aeronautical activities, will miss his departure from the office at Nineteenth Street and Pennsylvania Avenue.

## The Younger Generation and the Model Plane

**I**NSTRUTION in flying is beyond the reach of the average high school boy, but he need not despair of gaining practical experience in aviation. He can go where such pioneers as Pitsand and Langley did—where high-school enthusiasts have been going for twenty years—in the model airplane. He can be his own designer, operate his own research laboratory, his own factory, and finally play the part of the pilot. Paving the way for his own subsequent aeronautical activities on a broader scale, at the same time he will be giving his friends and the neighbors a chance of learning the principles of flight by absorption.

The activities of the model fleets are so diversified by the aircraft industry. They play too large a part in attracting young men's attention to the aeronautical profession as a life vocation, in giving school children who will be the potential airplane engineers and air pilots of ten years hence a knowledge of how aviation works and deepening its mystery, and in spreading aeronautical introductions among their elders.

The model-builders have pushed their records up to new levels even more rapidly than have the operators of man-carrying craft. Duration records for models have been more than doubled in the last two years, and multiplied by six in the last decade. They are increased exactly as are those for the full-sized machines—by research, by ingenuity applied to design, and by unduly beautiful workmanship. Some of these youthful record-breakers would be surprised to be told that they are engaged in research, but it is none the less true, improving their designs by deduction and measured trial, they are operating in the true spirit of the laboratory.

There are some thousands of young people in the United States who are developing and building highly successful flying models, most of them doing it in their principal avocation. Their activities are the direct outgrowth to the support of a few local enthusiasts, such as Merrill Hauberg in Detroit and Paul Garber in Washington to the coordinated national work of the Pyloned and Recreation Association under the lead of T. E. Reeves and to the interest shown by the *American Ray Magazine*. A few cities scattered over the country stand out in model flying as Wichita has in airplane manufacture, because in them the boys have found leaders. There could be twenty times as much interest, with proportionately more young people engaged, if only airplane manufacturers, N.A.A. chapters and groups of enthusiasts generally would everywhere take hold and give their backing, sponsoring on and helping out the local pyloned recreation director. At least there ought to be model flying, and lots of it, in every city where there is an airplane plant.

The Pyloned Association's annual national flying meet will be held in Louisville next week. The leaders

of the industry, with a few happy and conspicuous exceptions, have to far been singularly indifferent to the Association's work and to all model flying. They have been neglecting a good prospect. They ought to take an interest in taking it up, give prizes, contribute to organizations funds, and give as much of their personal time as possible. Without their participation the Pyloned Association is likely to grow discouraged, and model flying except in two or three exceptional cities to fade into desuetude. The industry dependent upon a constant development of new markets for its products and services, cannot afford to allow that.



## The Lexicographers Take a Hand

**T**HE NEWSPAPERS bring every news event to the doors of the field which aviation has taken and sometimes spare the public interest. One of the most striking in the enthusiasm shown by the dictionary makers for keeping abreast of the subject and even generously contributing to it. It is a general rule that a new art or science has to create its own specialized vocabulary, which creeps along an arduous path into the standard dictionaries after it has gained acceptance and some degree of standardization by the specialists. For aeronautics the order of events is threatened with reversal, as specialists upon the formation of language are offering suggestions for strange and custom-made terms which they are prepared to welcome into their own manuals of English pure and undefiled. It is but a few days since one of the greatest authorities upon the customs of dictionaries and their construction intimated that the words "caphase" and "diplane" would hereafter be recognized as in good standing.

It seems unlikely to require expert assistance of any sort, yet we are convinced that the more normal method of adopting reduced terms into the language only after they have been approved by the technical specialists as meeting a definite need of their own is the sounder one.

We are opposed to lengthening the language with any new aeronautical terms until a substantial number of people actively engaged in aeronautical work show some interest in acquiring additions to the vocabulary. And on one occasion out of ten when a new word is needed, it will not be self-evidently constructed, but will take a questionable origin in the field as did such terms as "dolly" or "tagline wire."

We must speak for the degree of the lexicographer's knowledge upon the subject, but even within the aeronautical industry there seems to be a noticeable ignorance of the present contents of a standard aeronautical dictionary. The National Advisory Committee for Aeronautics has called a series of aeronautical conferences, at which all of the interested government

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departments, the aeronautical industry, and the publishers of aeronautical magazines, have been represented, to discuss what technical expressions should be revised and how they should be defined. The last such meeting was some three years ago. The members listened long and faithfully and brought forth a weighty report. It is time for reconstitution, for possible revision and for certain replacement, and we urge upon the National Advisory Committee the holding of another such conference. If it is called, the last of impressions should be broader than before, for aeronautical activities have broadened immensely, and among others whose active participation should be sought, both for their own good and for ours, are the experts in philology and other verbal lore. Their help is needed, but it should not be left for them to lead the way. Despite the extent of our other obligations, we who are interested in aeronautics and in clarity and accuracy of expression of aeronautical thought should find time, in co-operation with the government departments and under the leadership of the National Advisory Committee, to keep our own vocabulary up-to-date and with our own dictionary.



## Give the Plane a Name

**T**HE TIME is now at hand when each model of airplane should have a distinctive name or mark of identification.

The Army and Navy service planes have generally been designated by a symbol. There were consequently few models in the service designed for different lines of duty, and they were readily recognized by those familiar with them. Now along comes an enthusiastic public interested in the development of aviation. The industry has grown from a few manufacturers of planes to well over a hundred in this country alone. Even the trained eye of the old timer as aviation designer when he tries to pick out a plane by some feature of design. The time has passed when the familiar was readily held sway.

The manufacturers of automobiles are now almost universally giving each design a separate trade name, though the same manufacturer may be the builder of several models under as many different titles. A distinctive name, not merely one descriptive of some feature of design placed conspicuously on the plane would be a great help to the belabored memory of the average enthusiast who has to be reduced to a painful purchase.

The aviation industry is a comparatively new study to a large majority of its enthusiasts today. Every possible effort should be employed to simplify their knowledge and increase their interest in aeronautics. Getting away from cognomenisms, or unimproved and nonexistent, nomenclature will be a help.

## A Rift in the Fog

**T**HE AVIATIONISTS have done their best to appreciate the significance of Lieutenant Doolittle's recent blind flight under the auspices of the Guggenheim Foundation. Where they have failed to gain the true perspective it has been for want of technical knowledge and not from any lack of enthusiasm, for the demonstration had an enormous popular appeal. The danger of the movement is, first, that the general significance of Lieutenant Doolittle's feat will be overestimated, with the most unfortunate popular reaction when it becomes apparent that all difficulties have not been swept away in a stroke, and that there is work still to be done. Mr. Guggenheim has been astoundingly careful, as all others actively participating in the work undoubtedly would be, to avoid any suggestion that fog has been definitely overcome as an obstacle to air transport. No matter how much caution may be observed, however, or how modest may be the claims of those who have done the work, the flight made at Mitchel Field last week remains a star of the first magnitude above the aeronautical horizon. No degree of conservatism can disguise its importance, greater than that of a score of broken records or other more spectacular episodes. It is easy to think of new difficulties in the way of wholesale application of the methods that Lieutenant Doolittle used, but that is unimportant for the moment. The important thing is that we are moving in the right direction.

For the first time it has been proved that a supersonic pilot, operating in a large field with not too many obstacles to dodge in the approach, working under fairly good conditions, and with a machine having a moderate landing speed, can become completely independent of visual guidance. It remains to whittle away those limitations one by one, and particularly to make further improvements in instrumental equipment, so that blind flying may go on far hours without under strain upon the facilities of the pilot in endeavoring to follow several flying patterns simultaneously.

It is a striking fact that the progress so far made has been from development rather than from invention. There was nothing new in principle about the restrictions that Lieutenant Doolittle used, but they were superior in accuracy to, and easier of interpretation than, any that were to be had when the Guggenheim Fund started its work. There will be further advances along the same lines, but it is fair to hope that there will be steeper ones, and in particular that hereafter blind flying will be supplemented by others independent of any previous one. The work of making blind flying commercially practicable will go forward with a renewed vim, both in the field and in the laboratories where the fundamental studies have been patiently and slowly carried forward. If the Guggenheim Fund had never had anything other than that to its credit, all of the work it has done and the money it has expended would still be justified.

## THE FIFTH ANNUAL

National Air Tour  
TAKES OFF

By JOHN T. NEVILL

HAVING AMASSED a total score of 5,709.68, Johnny Livingston, president, Midwest Airways of Aurora, Ill., flying a Waco 325, led 28 individual entries in the Fifth Annual National Air Tour for the Edsel B. Ford Trophy, when the famous experimental airplane reliability extravaganza bore out of a busy morning and landed at St. Hubert's Airfield, Montreal, Canada, Sunday afternoon, Oct. 6, graciously because of his exceedingly low end and snobish score, the lowest of any entrant in the Tour. Livingston's entry No. 26 held a lead in Montreal of approximately 350 points in excess of his closest competitor. The leading at St. Hubert's marked the finish of the fourth of 32 legs comprising the

Cheney entry, 3,570.80; No. 35, Cassius entry, 3,402.30; No. 23, Curtis-Robertson entry, 3,402.40; No. 17 Ford entry, 3,355.15; No. 28, Curtis-Robertson entry, 2,954.64; No. 1, Great Lakes entry, 2,906.30; No. 43, Fairchild 71 entry, 2,900.32; No. 2, Moth entry, 2,881.90; No. 21, Ryan entry, 2,765.24; No. 32, Lockheed entry, 2,663.72; No. 25, Curtis-Robertson entry, 2,593.16; No. 9, Comstock-Aire entry, 2,559.73; No. 14, Boeing entry, 2,438.44; No. 18, American Eagle entry, 2,200.44; No. 24, Curtis-Robertson entry, 2,338.30; No. 19, Moth entry, 2,332.76; No. 4, Travel Air entry, 2,114.20; No. 3, Great Lakes entry, 2,038.96.

During the first four legs of the long tour, only three



1929 event, a course that will carry the 29 contestants and more than eleven accompanying staffs, a total of 5,017 miles through twenty states and two Canadian provinces. At Montreal 362 miles of this distance had been covered and the planes were preparing Monday morning to re-enter the States for their first landing in the States at Portland, Me.

With a score of 3,165.72 points, Arthur J. Davis, of Lansing, Michigan, who piloting a Waco 325, was in second place, approximately 180 points ahead of third man M. E. Zeller, at the controls of Ford triplane, preceded by a Pratt & Whitney Wasp and two Wright J-6 300s. Zeller's score was 4,982.96. Davis and Zeller are flying across No. 8 and 16 respectively, the remainder of the field, according to entry number and score were as follows:

41, Fairchild K12, entry, 4,912.80; 29, Curtis-Cowder entry, 4,797.64; No. 33, Cassius entry, 4,291.30; 3, Bellanca entry, 4,179; No. 6, Bellanca entry, 4,090.50; 31, Spartan entry, 4,004.08; No. 30, Fairchild K12, entry, 3,699.36; No. 73, Wallace entry, 3,581.30; No. 34,

contestants have failed to make the required average speed between several points qualifying them for their respective "perfect score" for the Ford entry No. 17, which, according to the formula, must maintain an average speed of 106.36 mph. over every leg, failed to do so on the final leg, a short 18-mile mile hop between Portland and Windsor, Canada. This leg was scarcely long enough to give the pilot time to gain a safe altitude and open up their throttle and it was surprising that only one of the 29 starters suffered a reduced leg score, with exception of No. 17, which is piloted by B. S. Warner.

The other two imperfect scores were made by Major Caud Cost, pilot of Comstock-Aire No. 9, and Travel

Air No. 4. Down by Newman Wadlow, the youngest pilot in this year's Tour. Major Cost suffered an unfortunate landing on the 207 mi. stretch between Windsor and Toronto, and Wadlow was several minutes getting into Montreal because of a drop in his of pressure. The failure to maintain the required speed, No. 17 lost 207.73 points, No. 9 lost 199.85 points, and No. 4 lost 98.40 points. In order to even any handicap against any of the contestants caused by a field error made by him after some of the contestants had gone through their week and another time, Manager Collins this year decided to hold the tests on concrete runways. The previous tests were run off in good order despite considerable thick weather that kept a number of the pilots on the ground on Saturday and the day following the departure on Saturday, October 5. The weather cleared, however, on Sunday morning and remained fairly nice.

The official entry list is as follows:

1. Great Lakes Triplane, 271, Charles W. Meyer, American Cirrus Mark III, Great Lakes Aircraft Corp.
2. Great Lakes Triplane, 273, Capt. Wm. Lancaster, American Cirrus Mark III, Great Lakes Aircraft Corp.
3. Gypsy Moth, Al Krupich, DH Gypsy, Moth Aircraft Corp.
4. Travel Air, 6000 R, Ows G. Harrod, Wright J-6 300, The Travel Air Co.
5. Bellanca, CH 300, Capt. G. W. Halstead, Wright J-6 300, Bellanca Aircraft Corp.
6. Bellanca, CH 300, R. A. Nagle, Wright J-6 300, Bellanca Aircraft Corp.
7. Bellanca, CH 300, Steward Chadwick, Wright J-6 300, Bellanca Aircraft Corp. (out).
8. Waco, 225, Arthur J. Davis, Wright J-6 225, Waco Aircraft Co.
9. Comstock-Aire, 5-C-3, Major J. C. Case, Curtis Challenger, Comstock-Aire Co.
10. Wallace Triplane, Don Macdon, Knorr K-5, American Eagle Aircraft Co.
11. Phoenix autogiro (out).
12. Phoenix autogiro (out).
13. Lockheed, Vega, Wiley Post, P. and W. Wasp, Lockheed Aircraft Co.
14. Boeing, 25, Ruden Wagner, Harriet, Boeing Aircraft Co.
15. Anson (out).
16. Ford, 7-A-7, M. E. Zeller, 1 Wasp and 2 J-6 300, Street Motor Plane Co.



A Wright 40 powered, Waco 325.

17. Ford, 5-A-7, B. S. Warner, 3 Wasp, Street Motor Plane Co.
18. American Eagle, A-1-29, Hae Harriet, Knorr K-5, American Eagle Aircraft Co.
19. Gypsy Moth, 60 G-30, Frances Harriet, DH Gypsy, Moth Aircraft Corp.
20. Fairchild, K12-34, Knorr Harriet, Wright, 165, Fairchild Aircraft Mfg. Co.
21. Ryan, B-5, Russell Young, Wright, 225, Ryan Aircraft Co.
22. Cassius (out).
23. Curtis, Thrush, Dale Jackson, Wright, 225, Curtis-Robertson Aircraft Co.
24. Curtis, Baby, C-1, W. G. Shelton, Curtis Challenger, Curtis-Robertson Aircraft Co.
25. Curtis, Baby, J-1, Forest O'Brien, Wright, 165, Curtis-Robertson Aircraft Co.
26. Waco, 225, John Livingston, Wright, 225, Waco Aircraft Co.
27. Cassius, Curtiss Pigeon II (out).
28. Curtis, Thrush, J. L. McGrady, Wright, 225, Curtis-Robertson and Motor Co.
29. Curtis, Cowder, J. W. Crosswell, and K. E. Verler, 2 Conquerors, Curtis Aircraft and Motor Co.
30. Phoenix, autogiro (out).
31. Spartan, C-3, William Wilton, Wright, 165, Spartan Aircraft Co.
32. Lockheed, Vega, Wiley Post, P. and W. Wasp, Lockheed Aircraft Co.
33. Cassius, A.W. East, Knorr, Warner Knorr, Cassius Aircraft Co.
34. Cassius, DC 68, Stanley Stinson, Wright, 225, Cassius Aircraft Co.
35. Cassius, DC 6A, Steve Lacey, Wright, 165, Cassius Aircraft Co.
36. Alexander, Beller (out).
37. Alexander, Beller (out).
38. Alexander, Beller (out).
39. Laird, LCB (out).

40. Fairchild, J. I., R. W. Peers, P. and W. Wasp, Fairchild Airplane Mfg. Co.  
41. Fairchild, R. M. D., Morgan, Hackman, Wright, 300, Fairchild Airplane Mfg. Co.

The Tour's two women pilots, Mrs. Keith Miller, Mrs. Frances Harrell, and Miss Mary Hardly, are pitted against a field of 26 male pilots among them being a considerable number of the most skilled aviators in the country. Of the three women, Miss Miller is easily the most experienced having built up a noteworthy reputation in Australia and England before coming to the United States. In the Tour she is piloting a 148-hp Wright engine Fairchild KR-40 biplane. Miss Hardly, whose participation in the recent women's derby to the National Air Races at Cleveland brought her to the forefront among women pilots, is flying an American Eagle biplane powered by a Kinner R-5 engine, the outstanding aviator from Harvard, graduated from the Curtiss Flying School in New York City less than one year ago. She flew a Gypsy Moth in one of the events for women conducted at Cleveland, and is piloting a similar charge in the Tour, as a member of the United States. Receiving the publicity while piloting a woman pilot at that time, several manufacturers, including Travel Air, made last-minute attempts to secure the services of such a pilot. Mrs. Louise M. Thelen, winner of the women's derby to Cleveland, is undoubtedly recruited two such offers, but too late to complete the necessary arrangements. It is regrettable that the Thelma Peabody Cagle, the only woman pilot in the Tour last year, was not able to take part in this year's event. She also made a last-minute effort to get in the lineup, but the entry list had closed.

Among the male pilots we find only 3 or 4 that have competed in the Tour in previous years. One of these is the veteran Charles W. Meyers, R. W. (Dick) Peck, Capt. George W. Haldeman, and John Livingston Meyers, who has flown a Waco on all previous occasions since it closed last pilot for the Great Lakes Aircraft Corporation, and is flying out of the 273 annual biplane. Dick Peck, it will be recalled piloted a J-4 powered Fairchild biplane, also, in the 1928 Tour. He is back this year with a Pratt and Whitney Wasp engine Fairchild 21. George Haldeman, chief test pilot and sales manager for Bellanca, is in the Tour this year with a Wright R-405, 200-horsepower Bellanca biplane, generally known as a Bellanca CH-300. Last year Captain Haldeman flew a Bellanca CH, equipped with a 225-hp Wright.

Two of the pilots who have contested in previous years are listed among the officials this year. One is being Captain Frank M. Hawks, referee, and E. W. (Pop) Lockhead, official starter. Captain Hawks piloted a tri-engine Ford triplane in the 1928 Tour and a Ryan-B-H in the 1927 classic. On the present Tour he will officiate as referee, using his Wasp powered Lockheed Air Express with which he set the current best record for three-contest flying. Pop Cleveland last year participated in the Tour for his initial time, using a Ryan B-H triplane, engine with a Wright J-5-C. An starter he is flying a new Travel Air biplane purchased recently by his employers, the Cleveland Pneumatic Tool Company, of Cleveland, O.

Aide from these already mentioned the Edith Ford equity is being flown for this year by a large number of skilled and veteran aviators, notable among whom are Hanson Wagner, veteran pilot of the Boeing sys-

tem, Dale Jackson and Fernan O'Brien, endurance record holders, May J. Cawell, one of the country's 134th Observation squadron, Arkansas National Guard, and saleswoman, Commercial-Aero, Inc., "Al" P. Knapp, chief test pilot, Moth Aircraft Corporation, D. Morgan Haldeman, winner of the Cleveland-Toronto race, William Wofford, chief test pilot, Spartan Aircraft Company, Earl Rawland, winner of the Chesapeake Bay-Angles circuit and the Miami-Cleveland flight, Steve Lacey and Stanley Shuman.

The entry list in the 1929 Tour had at one time contained more than 40 entrants, but, due to one cause or another, the list shrank down to a total of 30. Inability to secure Department of Commerce Approved Type Certificate in time for the Tour, undoubtedly costed the greatest portion of the reductions. Capt. Ray Collins, tour manager, and the Roles Committee, headed by Capt. J. W. Woodson, of the Packard Motor Car Company, adhered to this rule strictly this year, although it caused some trouble, due to misunderstanding, at the airport at what might be called the last instant. Pilots definitely entered in the event, but refused out because of the manufacturer's failure to get A.T.C.'s before October 1. Those included three Langford Ladies, the three Cessna tri-engine, cubic engine, and the Aerocycle biplane. The winning of that rule, alone, would have swelled the entry list to 36 places. However, it seems to the writer, that the wisdom of sticking by such and every one of the rules is evident.

Other pilots entered but withdrew later were three Pittman airplanes, a Curtiss Carrier Pigeon II, and a Laird LCB, J-6, 300 engine biplane. The Laird, which holds A.T.C. No. 86, is believed to be the only one of these five planes with an Approved Type Certificate. It is known that the Langford Ladies have been compelled to withdraw. It would have been the first time the pioneer aviator, who taught himself to fly in 1912, has completed in the National Air Tour.

The number of airplanes actually competing in the Tour will not be maintained by a considerable additional number which are flying around the S.W.I.T. route on either non-contesting official planes or non-contesting official pilots. Among such credit that took off from Ford Airport are the following:

One Douglas O-2, piloted by Lieut. Wendall Broadway, and carrying Capt. Ray Collins, Tour Manager.  
One Lockheed Air Express, piloted by Capt. Frank Hawks, Tour Referee.

One Travel Air cubic monoplane, piloted by E. W. (Pop) Cleveland, Tour Starter, and carrying R. B. Byrnes, and Louis Fitch, assistant manager.  
One tri-engine Ford biplane, "Pittman" carrying newspaperman.

One Lockheed Vega triplane, carrying representatives of the Detroit News.

One tri-engine Ford, Standard Oil, equipped with radio, and carrying C. G. Andrus, official weather bureau man.

One tri-engine Ford, service plane of Wright Aero-astronaut Corporation.

One Vought "Circuter," service plane of Pratt & Whitney Aircraft Company.

One "Goodrich" Lockheed, piloted by Ler Schenker, carrying Arthur G. Schlessner, official scorer.

One tri-engine Cessna, piloted by J. C. Kelley and carrying "Doc" Kausale.

For the purpose of providing the Tour pilots with constant information as to meteorological conditions across their path, the United States Weather Bureau with the co-operation of the Standard Oil Company, of Indiana, and the Radio Corporation of America, has supplied the Tour with a "flying weather bureau." The biplane, tri-engine Ford monoplane, owned by the Standard Oil Company, is equipped with the latest of radio facilities, and it is through C. G. Andrus, government weather expert, of Cleveland, who accompanied the 1928 National Air Tour in a similar capacity. Plans for the "flying weather bureau" were announced by Norman H. LeMay, of Cleveland, senior meteorologist of the government service, shortly before the starting date. Mr. Govey also is a member of the National Air Tour Committee.

In weighing up the competing planes in the current Tour, Tour officials used official Department of Commerce Agents on the respective planes' allowable gross weight, empty weight, and allowable useful load. The weight then was built up by means of the pilot, passengers (if any) and accessories or used (if necessary) to the allowable useful load. The stick, control and main engine tests then were carried out with this load aboard. Prior to starting the Tour, however, each pilot was permitted under the rules to reduce his load by 25 per cent, being given credit for 100 per cent in the formula. Similarly, each pilot on the Tour is required to maintain only 85 per cent of his maximum speed in flying the route, the maximum speed of the best 100 per cent exhibited in the pre-Tour trials. Last year the rule as to reduction of weight was the same although the speed required was 80 per cent instead of 85 per cent.

Details of the stick and control and speed tests on the competing planes, with their required control and speed, "figure of merit," so soon to be submitted over each leg of the route will be published later.

FROM A STATISTICAL VIEWPOINT one of the most interesting revelations brought about by this year's Tour is the tendency toward lighter powered airplanes. It is noteworthy that of 35 engines powering the competing planes, 22 are in that range from 200 to 400 hp., and 13 are under 200 hp. More specifically, 4 are under 100 hp., 9 range between 100 and 200 hp., 13 range between 200 and 300 hp., 8 range between 300 and 400 hp. and 1 range between 400 and 600 hp. A total of 35 of the 36 engines are air-cooled, the remaining two being the 600-hp. geared Curtiss Conquestors installed on the Curtiss Carrier. The 18-passenger Conquest, incidentally, is the largest plane entering in the Tour, the smallest being the 60-hp. DSI Gypsy Moth, of which two are entered. It is also interesting to note that 27 of the 36 planes are single engine, one is dual engine and two are tri-engine.

Other statistical information follows:

No. of Planes	30
No. of Miles	\$617
No. of Staps	13
No. of Engines	35
No. of Monoplanes	27
No. of Open Biplanes	12
No. of Closed Biplanes	(none)
No. of Open Monoplanes	(none)
No. of Closed Monoplanes	7
No. of Single-Engine Planes	27
No. of Dual-Engine Planes	1
No. of Tri-Engine Planes	2

No. of Tri-Engine Planes	2
Engines between 100-150 hp.	9
Engines between 200-300 hp.	13
Engines between 300-400 hp.	(none)
Engines between 400-500 hp.	6
Engines between 500-600 hp.	1
Largest Plane in Tour	Curtiss Carrier
Smallest Plane in Tour	DSI Gypsy Moth
Highest Powered Engine	600-hp. Curtiss Conquest
Lowest Powered Engine	60-hp. Gypsy
Air-Cooled Engines	35
Water-Cooled Engines	2

With a total of 26 Wright engines among the 35 represented, the Wright Aero-astronaut Corporation leads the field in supplying identical power plant units to the 1929 Tour. The Wright company has ten 8-cyl., six 7-cyl. and four 5-cyl. engines in the Tour. Pratt and Whitney has 3 Wags and one Horner, Warner has one Saurab, and the following engines are represented by two of each: Anzures Gypsy II, DSI Gypsy, Curtiss Challenger, Curtiss Conquest, and Kinner K-5.

It is understood that the foregoing statistical figures apply only to those planes competing for the Edith Ford trophy.

WEATHER CONDITIONS in and around Detroit very easily caused postponement of the Tour's start, 12 of the competing planes being forced down at waypoints as late as the evening of Oct. 2. All of the contestants were to have been on Ford Airport not later than the morning of Oct. 3.

Captain Hawks, Referee, has announced the following figures as the official leg mileage on the 1929 Tour:

Detroit-Windsor	15 miles
Windsor-Toronto	207 "
Toronto-Ottawa	228 "
Ottawa-Montreal	112 "
Montreal-Quebec	206 "
Portland-Springfield	152 "
Springfield-New York	312 "
New York-Philadelphia	96 "
Philadelphia-Baltimore	90 "
Baltimore-Washington	128 "
Richmond-Winona-Salem	383 "
Winona-Salem-Greenville	182 "
Greenville-Augusta	200 "
Augusta-Jacksonville	210 "
Jacksonville-Macon	200 "
Macon-Atlanta	72 "
Atlanta-Memphis	191 "
Memphis-New Orleans	286 "
New Orleans-Louisville	47 "
Louisville-St. Louis	351 "
St. Louis-Springfield	383 "
Springfield-Webster	275 "
Webster-St. Joseph	192 "
St. Joseph-Des Moines	145 "
Des Moines-Cedar Rapids	99 "
Cedar Rapids-St. Paul	219 "
St. Paul-Minneapolis	171 "
Minneapolis-Brainerd	180 "
Brainerd-Moline	176 "
Moline-Chicago	149 "
Chicago-Kalamazoo	142 "
Kalamazoo-Detroit	120 "

# THE USE OF *Light Alloys*

## IN THE MANUFACTURE

☞ The American Electrochemical Society Discusses Their

AT THE GENERAL MEETING of the American Electrochemical Society held in Pittsburgh during the week of September 16-18, aeronautics had a substantial place upon the program for the first time. One session was devoted especially to aeronautical problems and the aeronautical applications of the electrochemical industry's products, and especially to aluminum alloys and other light metallic materials.

Of the several papers presented bearing upon aeronautical problems, three treated of the possibilities of its various different metallic materials; aluminum, magnesium, and beryllium. The first on aluminum, presented by Mr. T. W. Bassett of the Aluminum Company of America, needs no extended review as it was a general summary for an electrochemical audience, of studies with which aeronautical specialists are already largely familiar. It was not greatly very similar to that covered by some of the papers presented at the light alloy session of the Society of Automotive Engineers at Cleveland, and reported in AVIATION for September 7.

Discussion of Mr. Bassett's paper was participated in by Dr. George W. Lewis of the National Advisory

Committee for Aeronautics and the present writer. Both speakers paid tribute to the electrochemical industry and to the present dependence of aeronautical engineering upon its products. The writer undertook to analyze the possibilities of the industry as an aluminum market.

THE AGREEMENT WENTHAT of these structural parts which might be made of aluminum alloys in the present years production of aircraft and aircraft engines was estimated to be at the order of 3,500 tons. If the aluminum industry were to put all that business, displacing steel and wood completely, the aircraft market would absorb about four per cent of the nation's total production of the metal. Actually, less than one per cent goes into aeronautical work, and of the total tonnage of airplanes licensed in the United States only about two per cent are constructed entirely of aluminum alloy. Wooden wing spars and welded steel tube fuselages remain the accepted rule, and it was suggested in the discussion that the reason is presently economic, and that the more extended use of light alloys depends upon the development of cheaper methods of fabricating and assembling them.

The economic saving was seen to be labor, cost, rather than in that of the raw material for the average mill run of aluminum was indicated to be only about 50 cents per lb., even at the present time, while there are few if any airplanes in which the factory cost of the basic structure in its completed form is less than \$2.00 per lb. From \$1.00 to \$8.00 per lb. of structure is a wide target.

## OF AIRCRAFT

Status and Their Future Possibilities ☞



Dr. W. G. Harvey,  
Director of Research,  
Aluminum Company of America

Even allowing for wastage, therefore, the cost of aluminum would average about ten per cent of the total cost of the structure of a plane. The figure indicated that experience, in general, and where methods of economy refinement were not employed in designing and construction, showed no great difference in efficiency between structures of wood, steel, and light alloys. The

economic factor, of course, including such elements as durability and maintenance cost, could prevail in dictating the selection of material in most cases.

Dr. W. G. Harvey, also of the Aluminum Company, spoke on magnesium and its prospects. Magnesium is a somewhat the more state in which the aluminum alloys by five years ago. The aircraft industry has had but little experience with it as yet and is correspondingly inclined to suspicion. Dr. Harvey pointed lightly over the possibilities of pure magnesium, since its strength is quite inadequate for structural purposes, and turned to the high magnesium alloys. A typical example of that class contained 92.6 per cent magnesium, 7.0 per cent aluminum, and 0.4 per cent of zirconium. The paper included a table, reproduced in part as Fig. 1.

The properties given in each case are those of the alloy best suited for the work. In some instances several improvements in strength by heat treatment. The alloy of which the composition was given above, for example, gave about 30 per cent in tensile strength, and has its possible elongation and reduction of area nearly doubled, by appropriate treatment.

The alloys have been found to lend themselves well to the ordinary shop processes, although there has been no extended commercial development of the casting as yet. Aircraft parts are now being turned by sand casting, which presents no serious difficulties although it requires a special technique differing from that em-

ployed with other light alloys. Fastenings are made essentially as in aluminum alloy, and aircraft propeller blades, supercharger impellers, and pistons, among other things have been formed by that process. Dr. Harvey indicated that the dies designed for aluminum alloy forgings were in general suitable for magnesium alloys, although again the technique differs in detail. Extrusion is used satisfactorily, as in rolling. The material hardens very rapidly by cold working, however.

and the speaker emphasized the difficulties encountered in cold forming of magnesium alloy sheet, as well as the necessity of frequent re-annealing of the material between successive passes through the rolls during the process of cold rolling. Obviously magnesium alloy sheet is unsatisfactory for bending into cowls of double curvature of small radius.

The alloys come with beautiful anodized, and take a high polish when required.

Dr. Harvey's paper devoted some attention to corrosion and its prevention. There has been great improvement in corrosion resistance in recent years, and the alloys including magnesium are especially good, above even to the commonly used aluminum alloys. The paper specifically called attention to the desirability of using protective coatings under severe conditions, and recommended particularly a surface of electrodeposited nickel or one of aluminum paint.

REFERRING to questions about the extent of the present use of the magnesium alloys, the speaker said that production of castings had increased two hundred times in three years. He was unable to give full information concerning the availability of magnesium in exhaust manifolds. Experiments had been made, but he found that the temperatures near the cylinders would be a little high. He was unable to give full data at the present time upon the fatigue properties of magnesium alloy forgings, but the endurance limit had been found to be about 8,500 lb. per sq. in. for untreated castings, and 10,000 lb. for heat-treated sand cast parts. The fatigue stress capable of being sustained by forgings through five hundred million cycles was estimated at from 10,000 to 12,000 lb. per sq. in.



The aluminum alloy pressure vessel used in the Corbin Converter profile and which has a weight of 25 lb.



Inside assembly of Corbin engine

The present cost of the magnesium alloys was stated to be considerably higher than that of the corresponding aluminum compounds. Generally speaking, the cost is one and a half times that of the best aluminum casting alloys, while in forgings it runs about two and a half times the cost of its heavier rivals in the light alloy group. Against this economic disadvantage it offers a superiority of strength-weight ratio in the cast condition of about 30 per cent over a good casting alloy high in aluminum, according to the tables given in the paper.

MR. FRANK W. CALDWELL of the Standard Steel Properties Company contributed heavily to the discussion. He thought magnesium very promising for propeller blades, although still experimental. He was especially interested in the relatively high fatigue limit, which should reduce the danger of failure due to fatigue, and in the fact that the lowered density is made possible as use of a thicker blade section and so cut down the amount of flapping.

Aluminum alloys are a strictly commercial material. Magnesium is on the border line between the experimental stage and that of extended application in production. The material to which the third paper related, beryllium, is hardly even experimental as yet. Dr. R. W. Gillett, Director of the Battelle Memorial Institute, explained what little is known about its possibilities.

Dr. Gillett started with a frank recognition and regret that so little information existed, but he coupled it with an reveal of a personally optimistic point of view. Broadly speaking, according to the paper, beryllium has the same specific gravity as magnesium, the modulus of elasticity of steel, and like an alloy with a small proportion of aluminum a strength in excess of any other light alloy. Specifically, the specific gravity is 1.84, the modulus of elasticity is twenty-seven million per hundred lb. per sq. in. and the strength of the sheet rolled from an alloy of 70 per cent beryllium and 30 per cent aluminum was given as from 70,000 to 100,000 lb. per sq. in. The high modulus of elasticity would make beryllium especially valuable in the construction of springs and propeller blades and other members that are particularly subject to vibration.

Dr. Gillett pointed out certain disadvantages which at present appear to attach to beryllium. It seems to be hard to work by most of the standard processes. It is so brittle as to make the possibility of any cold rolling or cold working quite doubtful, although the beryllium-aluminum alloys should be better than the pure metal in this respect. Both the pure metal and the alloys give troublesome blowholes in casting. Dr. Gillett especially stressed these points and the necessity of getting rid of the material as fast as possible as it is likely to be made. "The next few days on this point, is the seeds of the battle in the whole situation," he said.

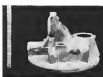
Fig. 3. Mechanical Properties of Magnesium Alloys

Test Specimen	Yield Strength (lb./sq. in.)	Tensile Strength (lb./sq. in.)	Elongation (in. per in.)	Modulus of Elasticity (lb./sq. in.)	Impact Strength (ft.-lb.)
Standard practice (Zn, 10% Mg)	10,000-15,000	15,000-20,000	10-15	10,000-15,000	10,000-15,000
Standard practice (Zn, 10% Mg)	10,000-15,000	15,000-20,000	10-15	10,000-15,000	10,000-15,000
Standard practice (Zn, 10% Mg)	10,000-15,000	15,000-20,000	10-15	10,000-15,000	10,000-15,000
Standard practice (Zn, 10% Mg)	10,000-15,000	15,000-20,000	10-15	10,000-15,000	10,000-15,000
Standard practice (Zn, 10% Mg)	10,000-15,000	15,000-20,000	10-15	10,000-15,000	10,000-15,000
Standard practice (Zn, 10% Mg)	10,000-15,000	15,000-20,000	10-15	10,000-15,000	10,000-15,000
Standard practice (Zn, 10% Mg)	10,000-15,000	15,000-20,000	10-15	10,000-15,000	10,000-15,000
Standard practice (Zn, 10% Mg)	10,000-15,000	15,000-20,000	10-15	10,000-15,000	10,000-15,000
Standard practice (Zn, 10% Mg)	10,000-15,000	15,000-20,000	10-15	10,000-15,000	10,000-15,000

\*Standard practice (Zn, 10% Mg)

\*Standard practice (Zn, 10% Mg)

Inimately connected with the lack of data on the properties of beryllium is the scarcity and the relatively enormous cost. The author mentioned that the cost in this country had been around \$200 a pound up to the present time. In the course of the discussion it was stated that the few of Siemens-Halske in Germany were reported to be producing about eight pounds per day for commercial use, at approximately \$100 per lb. Dr. Gillett believed that if a real demand for the material were in sight, the cost could be brought down to less than \$50 per pound almost at once, with further reduction in early prospect. He pointed out that enormous deposits of beryl are known, and that there need be no uneasiness on the score of exhaustion of the raw material. The speaker mentioned, in fact, that some authorities had estimated that the world had more beryl than lead or zinc. Dr. Gillett closed by reaffirming his own optimism as to the future of the material, but recognizing it as dependent upon further commercial development and a much more liberal expenditure of money on research. Lack of financial backing for experimental seemed to him the biggest reason for the temporary impasse during which beryllium continues to be discussed in theoretical and academic terms.



Here and at the end of the test, a piece of beryllium is being tested in a water bath. The weight of this is 10 lb.

Although the other papers of the session were less directly related to aeronautical requirements, nevertheless, they were of pronounced interest to the aeronautical engineer. Of special importance was the contribution of Juanita D. Edwards and Cyril S. Taylor, both of the Aluminum Company of America, on the electrolytic properties of aluminum alloys and other materials in relation to their liability to corrosion.

THIS PROPERTY possessed by Alkalid of extending an electrolytic corrosion protection to the aluminum core; so that it remains unaffected even after a substantial amount of the aluminum has been stripped away, is now generally known. The action conforms to a general rule that when two metals are in contact it is

the electrically negative one which is most likely to be corroded, and the greater the potential difference between the two the greater the corrosive influence upon the negative electrode. Thus in added aluminum in the positive element with a potential difference of about 0.1 volt between the two. The corrosion action therefore tends to concentrate upon the aluminum, which is inherently non-corrosive.

DIFFICULTY EDWARDS AND TAYLOR made measurements of potential difference for a great number of other combinations. The results showed that other high-strength aluminum alloys, such as 25 ST and 51 ST, would be less effectively protected from corrosion by an aluminum coating than is 17 ST, since their potential differences are smaller. In the case of 25 ST, in fact, at least one test showed the best treated material to be negative with respect to the aluminum, so that the presence of an aluminum coating, should it be broken at any point, would actually increase the rate of corrosion of the core.

A number of similar experiments were made on aluminum alloys in combination with other metals. The most important results can be expressed in tabular form:

Aluminum	protects steel slightly
Aluminum	protects steel more strongly
Steel	protects aluminum
Copper	corrodes aluminum severely
Brass	corrodes aluminum severely
Zinc	protects all standard high-strength aluminum forging alloys
Steel	corrodes 51 ST

Of course the opposite of the above statements is also true, whereas steel protects aluminum, the aluminum tends to corrode the steel. The potential difference is small enough, however, so that, in theory and in fact, have demonstrated in practice, the combination of aluminum and steel is not really a very dangerous one electrolytically. Severe risk is strongly electrolytic with respect to all of the high strength aluminum alloys, and



Electrolytic corrosion of aluminum alloy for the Corbin Aircraft and Motor Company



Photograph of the electrolytic corrosion of the aluminum alloy propeller

seller proves very satisfactory as a material for propeller

In discussing the paper, Stan Trautman of the National Advisory Committee for Aeronautics remarked upon the increasing tendency to the use of aluminum, quite aside from any consideration of economy or average efficiency, as a means of reducing the factor of ignorance in airplane construction. He suggested the possible importance of aluminum plating on aluminum, and also on other metals placed in contact with aluminum. Dr. Harold K. Work pointed out that aluminum plate would be an undesirable corrosion preventive.

Dr. R. N. Spiller, of the National Tube Company, spoke in some length upon the relation between corrosion and fatigue limits, citing the case of mild steel as having an endurance limit in air of 30,000 lb. per sq. in. under repeated stress, lowered to 20,000 lb. per sq. in. when the specimen is submerged in water. If the submerged were in a salt solution, however, and if the material under test were electropositive with respect to another electrode, the endurance limit would be maintained at the same figure as in air. He said further that insulation was that a high-voltage arc current over the surface would reduce the fatigue limit much as would submergence, a factor of obvious importance in aircraft and propeller construction.

The last paper bearing directly upon the practical handling of an aeronautical material was by Lewis McCulloch of the Westinghouse Electric & Manufacturing Company, and described a new process for coating aluminum without electric treatment. Either aluminum or its alloys can be given a white or light grey finish by heating for a few minutes in "milk of lime" to which a little calcium sulphate has been added. Approximately one and a half ounces of the calcium sulphate are used in each gallon of water. Boiling the metal for one hour gives a coating of 0.003 in. thickness, composed mainly of aluminum oxide. Although the coating is not directly resistant to corrosion, it is that obtained by the anodic process, it is exceedingly adherent, and the author suggested that its very porosity would make it an excellent foundation upon which to apply paints or enamel. The lack of any electrical connection makes this process of coating especially suitable in some cases, especially for small or in remote articles.



# THE BUSINESS OF Selling AND Servicing PARACHUTES

By R. SIDNEY BOWEN, Jr.

**F**ACED WITH the double-barreled problem of creating a market all its own, and of convincing that market of the utility value of its product, the Russell Parachute Company of San Diego, Calif., manufacturer of the Russell "Lark" parachute, has in a comparatively short space of time built up a national sales and service organization that might well be used as a pattern by other organizations engaged in the accessory field.

When the Company was organized in 1925 the only market available for its product was that afforded by the governmental air services. It was readily realized by the Company's officials, however, that a certain amount of time would be required before a profitable penetration of that market could be made. Therefore, attention was directed at the commercial side of accessories in a potential market.

As history shows, commercial accessories in 1925 was composed chiefly of a few manufacturers a few struggling contractors, a few hardware-men, and practically no pleasure pilots. All were willing to "get out of the red ink" and to the majority, the additional expense of parachute equipment was not worthwhile even though it could be met and in many cases it could not. In fact there was the belief among some manufacturers and operators that the presence of a parachute indicated that their planes were not any too safe. And as a result, the Russell Company was forced to combat unfavorable opinions from within the industry itself.

Nevertheless, the Russell Company was firm in the belief that a profitable market could be created in the "straggling" industry, and so set about the systematic task of dispelling the industry's prejudice toward parachutes and building up a productive selling organization. That the belief was well founded is private testimony by the fact that during the first six months of the current year the Company manufactured and

*The profitable increase of an established market is in itself a merchandising task of no mean proportions. However, the creating of a market, particularly one that is ultra-receptive, is a task that calls for 100 per cent merchandising ability. In 1925 the Russell Parachute Company was faced with just such a task, and during the first six months of this year, the Company sold over 1000 parachutes. This article tells of the methods used to build up that sales volume in such a comparatively short space of time.*

could over 1,000 parachutes.

The task of building up a productive sales organization was not as easy as, however, and the Russell Company had to be content with as full a share of "profits from experience" before representative national distributors and service was attained.

At first the company appointed ten dealers to handle Russell V-butes, and to each dealer was given a definite territory in which to operate. This contract was more than liberal, and has since been held in the contract well within the possibilities of his territory. Incidentally, the quota was determined upon the price population.

The result, though, proved to be far from satisfactory, and the burden of building up retail sales volume fell upon the factory. It was found that the "liberal" territory idea was impractical as far as the sale of Russell parachutes was concerned. The dealer contract, stipulating that the dealer would credit for all sales coming out of his territory, tended to cause the dealer to dispose of his quota and then to back and let the factory build up territory sales while he shared in the profits.

In a few cases "all birds were called off" and a new policy put into practice. Under this arrangement, which is now in force, there are no closed territories whatever. Any dealer has the right to sell Russell parachutes

any place throughout the United States. He is, however, prohibited from buying from the factory for resale to the United States government, or any of its branches. As regards the matter of quota to hold the dealer authorization, the dealer must purchase a certain number of parachutes during the course of one year. And for every 50 day period of that time he must maintain a stipulated monthly average, else the contract is automatically cancelled. In view of the fact that there are no closed territories the number of parachutes to be purchased within one year under contract is the same regardless of the dealer.

One qualification for a Russell dealer authorization, and one upon which the Company insists, is that the dealer be an airplane distributor or dealer, or at least be connected with the operation of aircraft as a flying field. It is the objective of the Company to supply Russell parachute service at every major field in the country, and therefore looking up with superlatives so situated is absolutely essential.

Upon signing the dealer authorization the dealer is required to pay first price for his first parachute. Such a requirement is of course, merely a means of preventing a "so called dealer" from obtaining a parachute in a discount, and then going out of business. For all purchases up to two parachutes thereafter the dealer is allowed the regular dealer discount. However, for lots from ten to nineteen he is allowed an additional discount, and for all purchases of lots of twenty or more he is allowed an even greater additional discount. It is understood and written into the contract that all discounts are based on the Company's prevailing list price.

To obtain as wide distribution as possible the Company encourages the dealers to appoint sub-dealers wherever they consider a box. They must however control the activities of the sub-dealers and see to it that Russell parachutes will be displayed and their sale promoted to all persons engaged in the business of aviation in the localities in which the sub-dealers are operating. This requirement, which at first glance might seem to be entirely unnecessary, is but one means of carrying out the Company's policy that the dealers and sub-dealers guard against the advent of "dead" stocks on their shelves.

The fact that dealers and sub-dealers are not restricted to territory sales, permits the factory to set retail throughout the country. This practice, however, is not taken advantage of to any great extent, the Company officials believing that "factory interference" is not prob-

An active photograph of a parachute jumper tucked down to work with a Russell Lark parachute.

able in the long run. There are cases though, when the factory does step in, and an example is where it is apparent that a certain section is not producing as it should, even though the local dealer is fulfilling his contract as regards purchases. At such a time, the factory steps in to "show the boys how it is done", as it were. Or else it appoints additional dealers throughout the nation.

NOTABLY it would be no responsibility for the factory to efficiently supervise a national selling and service organization from the San Diego plant. Therefore the sales manager is continually "treading" the country and visiting the dealers and sub-dealers. In addition he is visiting all month while deals with the idea of establishing new dealers. Perhaps the major part of his activities consists of "teaching" parachute servicing to dealers and demonstrating the Russell products. He has a plane and an expert jumper travels with him, and "pass-words-says" at various times during the year. In short, the sales manager and his jumper are the factory contacts. They recruit the field, seek to correct national sales volume and in addition discuss what other arrangements are necessary so that all Russell parachute users can obtain expert Russell service. The factory of course keeps all members of its selling organization well supplied with information literature for their benefit and for the benefit of Russell parachute owners.

So successful have been the merchandising and servicing policies of the Russell Company, that they have developed a national market that it too big to be adequately handled from the factory alone. Therefore a heavy branch has been opened at New York City to permit better distribution east of the Mississippi River. Not only does the New York factory branch make for more rapid delivery of orders, but also reduces the express costs to a considerable degree. If development continues to be as rapid as at present, it is believed that a mid-western branch will be necessary at an early date.

# THE EMSCO "Challenger"

## TRI-ENGINED MONOPLANE

**F**LIGHT TESTS of the Emsco "Challenger" tri-engine cabin monoplane conducted at Long Beach, Calif., with Jack Bird as test pilot, proved the latest of Charles Rochester's designs to be as efficient as the Albatross series which has preceded it. Since the Albatross Aircraft Corp., of which Rochester is president, has been purchased by the U. S. Smith interests, the new Challenger, and all future designs by Rochester and his engineering staff, will be produced in the new Emsco aircraft factory at Downey, Calif. Mr. Rochester continues with the Emsco Aircraft Company as vice-president and general manager, and will supervise the development of a complete line of aircraft, of single and multi-engine, land and seaplane type.

Powered with three Curtiss Challenger six cylinder radial engines, each developing 370 hp. at 1800 r.p.m., the Emsco Challenger is a cabin monoplane of the externally braced type, with a wing span of 37 ft. and a length overall of 36 ft. In flight tests conducted at sea level over the airported Navy speed trial course along the southern shore of San Diego, the Challenger showed a top speed of 125 to 130 m.p.h. at 2000 rpm, and a cruising speed of 100 mph at 1450 rpm. Climb at sea level was 850 ft. per min., and service ceiling 15,000 ft., all performance figures being determined with full normal load. Accommodations are provided for six passengers and two pilots, with a laundry and storage baggage space in rear. Gross weight of the plane fully equipped and loaded is approximately 5,400 lb.

In flight the Challenger is perfectly stable and may be flown by one of theadder alone. Under all air conditions encountered the plane has shown steadiness and easy riding qualities. Good handling of all three engines and sound proofing of the entire cabin has made this an extremely quiet two-engine plane.

Much of the efficient performance of the Challenger is due to the careful strengthening and powerbracing of all exposed parts. Struts are actively fitted into the supporting struts, exhaust pipes being carried into the interior of the fuselage and exhausts at the rear tip through a single three-inch pipe. Application of the N. A. C. A. complete engine cowling is easily accomplished on the nose engine because of the large fuselage cross-section. A true light cone is carried along all main wing struts and the tapered bracing strut on each side of the fuselage has been enclosed by a stub wing cut extending out to each nacelle. An individual streamline shield of light construction is mounted around each landing gear wheel and all landing gear struts are well streamlined. The fuselage is of oval construction.

IN FRONT the Challenger is gold, black and has two tones of green combined to give a pleasing effect. Outboard nacelles are natural aluminum, struts, wings and tail surfaces are gold, while fuselage and landing gear are finished in two tones of green, with black and gold striping. Freshly opened windows and door fit by aluminum metal strips.

Wing construction is in two panels which are joined together at the fuselage fittings above the main spar so as to form a semi-detachable wing. Spars are of box type with ip-join, three ply side plates, spacer cap strips, and separate interior structure of Warren truss type. Five types of drag bracing are used in each wing panel, with steel tube compression washers mounted against a steel plate fitting on each spar, the drag wires being



Photograph of the Emsco Challenger structure from right showing gear wheel fitting



A front view of the Emsco plane showing the wide landing gear strut

threaded through this fitting in such a way that the entire structure is rigidly tied together. The wing struts are a modified Gossamer type. Ribs are of spruce in cross form constructed with plywood, spacing being varied along the wing according to the air flow encountered. Duralumin sheeting is used over the leading edge top and bottom to give a true curve back as far as the front spar. Wing tips are fixed by steel tubing built into the wing construction, a rib of choice air foil being used at the tips. Steel tubing is used along the trailing edge of all airfoils. Adapters are mounted by plate bearings to three outriggers from the rear spar and are set in a considerable distance from the end of the wing so as to be shielded by the tip fairing. Adapter construction is of wood with a steel face spar along the leading edge of the skin. Each wing and fuselage are completely fabric covered and heavily finished with a pigmented dope to give a high gloss finish.

FUSELAGE and empennage structures are of welded chrome molybdenum steel tubing all of which is protected inside and out with Lacquer. All fittings throughout the plane of 1,005 specifications steel, mounted at points of great stress. The fuselage of the Challenger differs somewhat from ordinary practice, but is quite similar to the Albatross type of construction except for the larger cross sectional area. In cross section the fuselage is a perfect oval, this form being carried out in all the main bulkheads which are spaced along the fuselage. Each of these bulkheads is laterally braced with a K type truss, while ordinary truss structure is used largely internally in rear of the cabin to give a permanently rigid welded steel tube structure. Around the cabin, however, bracing is by oversize steel tubes which have been carried to follow the contour of the oval fuselage without breaking into the interior of the cabin. The strength test by doubly curving these tubes is considered far by additional cross bracing above and below the cabin so that a completely unobstructed cabin interior is gained without sacrifice of strength. Pairing of the fuselage is by smooth plywood around the cabin to a point in rear of the baggage compartment, and from there, by the tail of the plane there are section duralumin tubes slung to the cross bulkheads. Fabric covering is stretched over the entire structure from nose to tail, and finished with pigmented dope.

Entrance to the passenger cabin is gained through an oval door on the left side of the fuselage, a patented folding step-ladder being incorporated in the design. The outside door leads into the lavatory compartment in rear of the main cabin, a second door being provided through which the passenger compartment is reached. In rear of the lavatory is a large baggage space while the lavatory portion is accessed by a heavy curtain

While window frames are screwed to the floor of the main cabin, there are each side, with an additional bench in front of the left front door. Ventilation is provided by ports in the floor and by sliding windows. The cabin interior is finished in smooth plywood with a natural pine wood graining. Two large windows with glass framed to the outside of the cabin are located on each side, and tapestry curtains are draped at each window by means of gold cord bulkheads. Seats are upholstered and finished with tapestry covering. The cabin floor is constructed of heavy, hard corrugated dural covered with lacquer over which a thick carpet is stretched. A thermostat is mounted to the forward cabin wall, two direct lights provide ample illumination and the entire interior is finished with decorative wood moldings, with all hardware heavily polished.

The cabin construction is of plywood inside and out over a framework of spruce and plywood based around the steel tube fuselage members. Fabric covering is used over the outside plywood and a heavy layer of insulating material is placed between the cabin walls providing insulation from both cold and heat. An altimeter, air speed indicator, and clock are mounted on the forward wall of the cabin above the door to the pilot's cockpit, so that passengers may have a check on the movements of the plane.

THE PILOT'S COMPARTMENT is reached through a door from the main cabin. Ample space is provided for two pilots, a large bucket seat being located on each side of the door. The overhead window is hinged and may be manually opened to give pilots an emergency exit. A large windshield extends completely around the forward portion of the cockpit, with four vertical pieces of glass curved to the arc of a circle so that any of the four panels may be slid in either direction to give pilots each visibility or ventilation as may be needed. Since structural members are carried below the windshield visibility is exceptionally good. Large pyralis windows are located on each side of the cockpit below the windshield to give the pilots a view of the landing gear and outboard engine compartments.

Controls are of the Decadent type mounted on a T stick, with swinging pedal rudder controls and brake controls on the left set of pedals only. All control wires are insulated and protected against the possibility of fouling.

The instrument board, of heavy, hard corrugated duralumin, is mounted across the cockpit in front of the pilots. Of pressure and temperature indicators and tachometer for the nose engine are mounted on the right half of the board, engine oil and instruments in the center, with altimeter and air speed indicator on the left half. Throttle and altitude adjustment levers for all



Although the speaker did not enlarge upon the point, the inference was plain that he believed that the government having set its hand to the plan of regulation should go on to build upon a certain consensus of ground facilities and communications before any route was permitted to be operated in regular transport service. It is surprising that there has been so little discussion of that totally important question in the past, and that the suggestion of government control of air routes and the requirement of a permit for operating there should have been so seldom heard.

THE next paper addressing itself specifically and exclusively to questions of airplane design was that of Dr. Michael Walter of Charles Vought Corporation, who spoke as safety liaison in aerodynamics. After pointing out how good a past experience he shown aerodynamic design to play as a safety factor, Dr. Walter urged particularly the importance of attention to aerodynamic details. The mixer had pointed out how aerodynamic can be designed in terms of a few coefficients given as small symbols. Such factors as the blanketing effect of the body upon the tail surfaces and as the relationship between the wings, tail surfaces, and propellers, Dr. Walter considered to be of especial importance. While these considerations to stress are important at all times, they are particularly likely to be overlooked in the scaled conditions.

The author of the paper mentioned the use of wing sections having a very flat peak on their lift coefficient curve, the operation of the airfoils through a differential acceleration, and the installation of Frue sections as among the means of improving control in the stalled attitude. For a real solution, however, he felt it necessary to go deeper and to remove the causes of the loss of control as the matter then to improve the control surfaces themselves. To the more fundamental category of solutions to remove the cause are included the suppression of the boundary layer of air by sucking air into the wing through holes in the surface or blowing it under pressure through surface openings, and noted a new. Outlining the history of the slot device, he pointed out that in normal operation, through the present extensive slot, the author mentions especially the usefulness of a leading device, applied in American installations for holding the slot permanently either opened or closed as desired. As Lieutenant Harper has done in his papers on the slot wing, Dr. Walter also stressed the importance of very accurate fittings of the slots so that opening of the two sides might be simultaneous. An error of a small fraction of an inch materially affects the nature of the action at the time of opening.

The paper is an instance of spinning open rather disconcertingly by explaining what is not known, and by calling attention to features in which all the accepted rules for avoidance of flat spinning tendencies have apparently gone wrong. The author indicated that the complexity of the spinning phenomena is seemingly self-evident, with incomplete "solutions" obtained by rather simplified means. Referring to his remark upon the slotted wing, he felt that a powerful roller control and the protection of the rudder from any blanketing or shielding effect was of the first importance. This is in agreement with certain British experience.

Dr. Walter described as illusory the common belief that the use of slots absolutely prevents spinning. Recognizing their effect upon spinning characteristics and the reduction of the likelihood of falling into a spin he

nevertheless pointed out that there has been repeated demonstration of the possibility of spinning with slots open in certain cases.

Dr. Walter brought his paper near its close with an examination of two factors affecting spinning hazards. He stressed particularly the accuracy of angle lateral control of a large roller free from blanketing, the use of horizontal surfaces with a high aspect ratio, and the provision of angle longitudinal stability, which means keeping the center of gravity well forward on the mean wing chord. He was especially about prospects for progress not only upon the spinning problem but upon all the other aerodynamic elements of design having a bearing upon hazards.

Training of pilots as a factor affecting safety was treated in a paper by E. P. Howard, Chief of the Regulation Division of the Aeronautics Branch of the



Major Howard C. Boyd,  
air. J. C. I. S. A., who  
spoke on student pilot

Lester D. Sturges, chief  
of Division of Military  
Air Transport

Department of Commerce. Mr. Howard spoke especially of the Department's new policy for the rating of flying schools and for the dissemination of safety for some rigorous control over training. A year ago an analysis of the Department's accident statistics had shown conclusively the inadequacy of the training being received by many students. Training in spinning prior to the first solo flight was especially likely to be neglected so all emphasis was laid on getting in time twice as quickly as possible. Many schools were operating from dangerously small or obstructed fields. Largely as a result of defective training, about twenty per cent of all accidents were becoming in what was less than fifty hours flying time. Another indication of the effects of education and training was furnished by the fact that seventy per cent of all pilots licensed in 1938 received transport licenses but holders of certificates of that grade had only twenty per cent of the total number of accidents. Among the special troubles at that time were lack of experienced instructors, slow pool pilots were in great demand on transport lines and generally found that work more attractive than teaching; lack of proper training facilities in which the instructors could receive full assistance regarding the necessary equipment to keep the price of training to a minimum. Some of these factors still work, but the deficiencies of training places have caused to be met for serious causes since the manufacturers have begun to give

special attention to that problem and since the Department of Commerce has caught up with its work of regulation and checking of the structural properties of new planes.

Mr. Howard explained that the Department had had to look on a very unsatisfactory situation, completely unable to take action, for some time but its hands had now been partially untied by the Hughes Amendment giving authority to run flying schools upon the request of the owners. He said that the number of applications for rating was steadily increasing as was the proportion of applicants who could show that they were meeting satisfactory standards. There have been very few applications for rating as approved schools, at which flights have so far been approved, with about as many more pending with a possibility of approval. He estimated that there were a little over five hundred schools in all operating in the United States including those which are not completely up to the competence of personnel, adequacy of equipment or proper operating time or all these.

There was practically no discussion upon the paper given by Mr. Sturges and Dr. Walter, but Mr. Sturges' contribution drew many comments from the floor. Questions asked by some of the delegates to the Safety Congress were particularly connected with aerodynamic work, made it evident how very little knowledge the average intelligent lay citizen as yet possesses of the state of the industry and the nature of the action being taken by the Department of Commerce in the aerodynamic sphere. In response to queries about the method of enforcement of the Department's regulations proposed, it was explained both by Mr. Howard and by representatives of personnel companies that the citizens might be relied on to get and to enforcing the regulations and deterring violations, since observance of the Department's stipulations enter as a necessary into aircraft policies and violation renders the policy at least temporarily void. It was also suggested that mechanics and pilots will be slow to risk any violations since if a violation is made by their employees, their their licenses and their personal financial interests would be at stake if found out. Mr. Tollet, of Continental Air Service, wanted to know how he could find out the cause of his students being refused their license by the Department's inspectors, in order that he might correct and done in the system of instruction. The speaker agreed that it was desirable that the instructor or head of a school should be informed but pointed out that the student himself already had a definite right to be informed of his shortcomings on request and he believed that a school could best claim any real defects in its system or injury against failure of an unsatisfactory large proportion of its students by making sure that its facilities came up to all respects to those required by the Department for rating as approved.

Mr. Howard also called attention during the discussion to the fact that certain schools were making more or less claim, but quite frankly, claims of having received the Department's approval and to the necessity of checking up on any such claims.

CHIEFLY ALLIED with Mr. Sturges' subject was that selected by Prof. William G. Brown of the Guggenheim Foundation, the effect upon safe aviation of recent developments in instrument design and in the application of radio. Professor Brown's paper outlined some of the work done in the course of the Foundation's long flying studies, with special reference to Lieutenant De-

Wilde's experiences in the flying. Because of the material for publication was necessarily withheld, and therefore no attempt at abstract will be made.

Safety work in aviation is not limited to the hazards of flight, and two of the papers treated of problems involved upon the ground. First presentation at airports is always of importance, and has been of special interest since the National Board of Fire Underwriters took its stand for requiring a complete provision of automatic sprinklers in all hangars. The subject was discussed before the Safety Council by Maj. Howard C. Davidson, commanding officer of Bolling Field. A suggestion of expensive plans at that station have the type of fire prevention and fire detection very real, about somewhat later ones there.

Major Davidson's report included an analysis of a fire which occurred in Air Corps hangar over a period of about six years ago. Somewhat surprisingly, it was found that only about one-fifth of the whole number could be charged to causes at all directly connected with or product to aviation, while two-thirds came from electric heating or electrical systems in the building. Heating systems were a general cause of fire in civilian aircraft most of the fire made their appearance in the winter. There was not a single fire at an isolated tropical port, despite the supposed and frequently discussed danger of aviation with extra volatile gasoline in a hot climate. Confirmation of personnel was responsible in several cases, but it was not always with intention. In no instance is that group of fire did the problem of smoking rates play a part.

Although the speaker cited but one case of a fire from that cause, he urged special caution about rubbing metal objects such as fuel tank doors, over a concrete floor. The incident is likely to strike sparks and ignite gasoline vapor. The hot tank is a soldier's shoes have been known to be responsible for at least one conflagration in that old fashion.

Referring to hangar fatalities as a major element in fire losses, Mr. Davidson called for improvement of keeping all fires well away from the buildings where airplanes are housed, in accordance with the common practice in modern construction. The hangar unit should communicate with hangar only through hot-air ducts or similar outlets and the use of wires was especially recommended on the basis of Air Corps experience. The paper very strongly recommended a central heating plant for all the buildings around an airport.

For fire fighting, he highlighted the importance of modern alarm with that of proper extinguishing equipment. Automatic alarm systems were also recommended. Of extinguishing fluids, carbon tetrachloride and carbon dioxide appeared to the author to come closest to maximal applicability, since extinguishing foam, although very effective against gasoline and oil, is a conductor of electricity and is also likely to freeze up at a risk below 32 deg. F. Both foam and liquid extinguishers have, however, been extensively used.

Although Major Davidson's paper was devoted primarily, as indicated by its title to fires in hangars and other airport buildings he closed with some very interesting figures on building fire losses for the years 1925 to 1935, inclusive. In the same years from 1925 to 1935, inclusive, the Air Corps had eighteen fires in the air. In 1927 there were two such fires, in 1928 four, continuity to the general suppression, very few fires resulted from hollow fuel lines. Structural failures of engine parts

most first among primary causes, with ignition and outdoor troubles next in order. Of all Air Corps accidents, approximately one per cent are fires in flight, and that proportion has remained almost constant. Fires in flight have been responsible, all told, for two deaths in the last nine years of Air Corps operations. Although there has been progress in increasing the number of hours flown for every fire in the air, the influence of improved airplane design and of the supplying of war time planes is much better shown by the record of fires after crashing. From 1920 to 1926 more than five per cent of all crashes were followed by fire. Throughout the last two years the proportion has been kept to less than two per cent. The death rate from this cause has been reduced some 80 to 90 per cent during the last five years. Particular success has been attained in adapting against the outbreak of fire after a crash in the case of other causes of accidents. For, of the ten fires after crash listed by Major Davidson as having occurred in the Air Corps during 1927 or 1928, 80 per cent were the aftermath of mishaps in taking off or landing.

The discussion of Major Davidson's contribution centered around the very controversial subject of automatic airplane installations in hangars. A representative of the National Fire Prevention Association spoke in favor of the speakers. He considered them useful even on gasoline and oil fire although he remarked that it had to be taken into account that airplanes are under peculiar hangar conditions. He indicated that it was the intention of the Association to issue the month discussed set of rules including definite speaker requirements, first prepared about a year ago, merely as recommendations for good practice at least for the time being.

Of Mr. Matthews of Universal Air Lines, took strong exception to the defense of speakers. He found them faulty because of the intensity of airplane fumes, the rapidity with which they spread and the small area under the wings and engine hood, many of which could start under the wings or fuselage and could not be reached by speakers from the ceiling. He recommended small portable fire extinguishers of the Roamer type.

A representative of the Automatic Sprinkler Corporation agreed that the ordinary type of sprinkler installation was likely to be of little benefit in an airplane fire. He felt in particular that the dry pipe type was particularly unsuited for hangar service but a special type of installation had been developed and successfully tested for that service. It included sprinkler heads in the floor as well as in the ceiling throwing water at the blaze from all directions and would thoroughly wet down a collector fire within twelve seconds after it broke out. The new system was now being installed in two hangars. The Fire Prevention Association's representative concerned that dry pipe sprinklers were very inferior for airplane work and that special installations were needed.

THE LAST PART of that of C. L. Rollins, vice-president and works manager of the Republic Aircraft Corporation, who briefly discussed the dangerous standard on fire craft construction and the means of combating them. He wrote very forcibly of the importance of good housekeeping in the aircraft factory, with constant attention to cleanliness and ventilation not only in the drying room but everywhere else as well. Mr. Rollins

also insisted, among other factors having a bearing on hazards, the importance of isolating all processes involving the use of heat or chemical treatments of concentrating the factory's supply of welding gases and piping it to the points of final use, and of providing ample floor space to avoid overcrowding either around machinery or during the assembly of planes. His recommended compressed-air drive for small tools wherever practicable and the driving of machine tools by individual motors without belts.

It increased the meeting to a close, Major Reed G. Landon, who acted as Chairman at the afternoon session, gave a brief account of the aeronautical safety work going on in the Chicago district. He explained that it had for some time been the practice of the Cook County coroner to convene a special coroner's jury of aeronautical experts to inquire into each airplane crash. This is believed to be unique as a regular practice. Major Landon himself, in permanent display position for aeronautical matters at a dollar a year and he has volunteered representatives whose homes and places of business are scattered throughout the county and who are pledged to go immediately to the scene of a crash and at any time. In this way it is possible to get all evidence before it has been destroyed or damaged and to collect the stories of eye witnesses while they have the events still fresh in mind. It is a recommendation of one of the special coroner's juries (justified which is in the passage of the present Illinois State Code.

Landon told how Major Ralph Roper had received leave from the Army for three months to take charge of the enforcement of air regulations and how he was running instruction courses for the pilot giving them instruction upon what the regulations contain and also practical experience in gauging the altitude of planes and in identifying their maneuvers.

The first two errors under the Illinois Air Law were made on the very day of the Safety Council meeting. The first special coroner's jury recommended that the County authorities undertake to supervise and become flying fields, of which there are now 23 in Cook County, in order to eliminate operations from fields dangerously small or otherwise objectionable.

The present order in discussion expressed some concern over getting any local government directly into the business of regulating since government authorities such as those now doing the work in Cook County could not be expected to give their services gratuitously. However, the regulations might ultimately come under non-partisan political control. He suggested as an alternative that State law should prohibit any regular operation of airplanes after a certain date from any field that had not received at least a D-4 rating from the Department of Commerce, thus keeping the technical details in the hands of the Federal authorities precisely as for licensing pilots and pilots. Major Landon agreed in principle upon the desirability of Federal leadership and the undesirability of many conflicting acts of local regulations, but pointed out that the bulk of Chicago's air traffic and the great number of fields had constituted a definite emergency and that emergency action had had to be taken as a result.

Several speakers in the discussion paid tribute to the foresightfulness of the Chicago authorities in seeking aeronautical work when accidents had to be investigated and suggested the desirability of following that example elsewhere.

AVIATION  
October 12, 1928

AVIATION  
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# Ford Motor Company AND AMERICAN AERONAUTIC DEVELOPMENT

By JOHN T. NEVILL

SINCE JUNE 11, 1926, when Maj. R. W. Schooner, last pilot, flew the first three-engined Ford monoplane, the Ford company has produced more than 135 tri-engined planes. Approximately 68 of these have been of the Wright-engined model known as 4-A-T, about 50 of the Wasp-engined 5-A-T, and three or four of the larger Wright-engined 6-A-T.

During this period the Ford Motor Company's airplane factory floor space has been tripled and the number of employees of the aircraft division increased from less than 100 to the present total of approximately 1,600. Chiefly because of Mr. Ford's many experiences in various phases of aeronautical work, no safe estimate can be made of his total investment in aviation, but it has been conservatively estimated that the Ford Motor Company has produced nearly \$8,000,000 worth of tri-engined airplanes.

Beginning in 1926, both the company's production and operating personnel have been increased steadily except that at several points along the line, workmen has given way to sudden stops toward a larger output.

As pointed out in a previous article, the company during 1926 turned out four Wright-powered 4-A-T monoplanes, that model being the only tri-engined type

## Three Standard Models Are Adopted; Production Is In- creased 400 Per Cent in 1928; Contributions of the Company to Aviation Summed Up

produced by Ford at that time. The usual tri-engined craft to be test flown was not completed until June, 1926, and the company did not get into its new plant, with its tripled floor space and modernized facilities until October of that year. As operations were transferred into the new plant the company had about 125 men on the aircraft payroll.

Starting the year 1927 with 150 employees and a production schedule of one plane every three months, the airplane division during that year increased both the production and the personnel list by let, completing 12 4-A-T's during the twelve-month period. By November, 1927, the company had to plant operating with two continuous assembly lines, the two lines running into one for the final touches completing the craft.

Early in 1928, the 5-A-T, a plane having a longer wing than the 4-A-T, and powered by three 410-hp. Pratt & Whitney Wasp engines, was designed. The first of this series was not ready for flight until August of that year. In the meantime, production of the 4-A-T had been stepped up from one per month to one every two weeks, and from one every two weeks to one each week.

During the month of October of 1928 the company produced 31 of the 4-A-T series. Thus changes were made to increase production considerably. Departments were reorganized to follow more closely the Ford system of progressive production. Additional machinery and equipment was installed. Steel fastenings wing and



Interior view of the Ford-Baker factory at Dearborn, Mich.

various sub-assembly jobs were left to replace these parts at cost. As ever increasing number of them were made and use still being made to minimize the necessity for local labor. Overhead cranes were installed to facilitate the handling of cumbersome materials and to carry out more thoroughly the Ford idea of progressive assembly.

When previously as many as 40 men had been required to move a nut from one area of operations to another, wheel forelugs, wings, and other heavy parts could now be moved along the assembly line with only one of these cranes. An additional shift of workers was put on, and a program of three three-hour plant per week was added.

As a result, the latter half of 1938 saw the completion of 28 6-A-T models and 17 of the new model 5-A-T. By the introduction of new factory equipment, and new methods, production during the year was still increased approximately 400 per cent. Gradually, the personnel had grown from 150 men at the year's beginning to approximately 1,300 men at its close.

Of the total 1938 output of 57 planes, 54 were sold to outside interests, many of them going to lots of from three to ten planes to a single operator. Notable among such customers were the U. S. Transcontinental Air Transport, Inc., National Air Transport, South Air Service, Colonial Air Transport, Norwest Airways and Madax Airlines. The rest of the year's production was probably absorbed by the Ford Motor Company, itself, for use on its own service.

AS THIS IS WRITTEN, a reliable source within the Ford airplane division estimates that production for the first six months of 1939 was approximately 42 5-A-Ts, 12 6-A-Ts and three 5-A-Ts; the latter model being a new type, the first of which was completed May 25 of this year.

There is not a wide difference between the three models now being manufactured. The 4-A-T produced today differs from the original 4-A-T in that the company has added wing the 2200-hp Wright engine, replacing it with the Wright J-6, 300 hp. This 4-A-T is powered with a total of 900 hp, has a wing span of 74 ft, length of 49 ft 10 in and area of 1400 sq ft. The 5-A-T has a wing span of 77 ft 10 in, a length of 49 ft 10 in, seating capacity for 14 passengers and is powered by three 490-hp Wright engines, giving it a total of 1,230 hp. The first of this series was test flown in Dearborn in August, 1938, and shown to have a high speed of 135 m.p.h., with a cruising speed of approximately 125 m.p.h. One of the first of these models was delivered to Col. T. A. Doolittle, of Dayton, Ohio, a division of the Ford & Whitcomb Company.

The 6-A-T, the newest of the Ford products, combines characteristics of the two other models in that it has the

wing span of the Wasp-powered model but uses 300 hp engines instead of the 510 hp Wrights.

The Ford Motor Company is now concentrating production on these three models, with the Wasp-powered type superseding the other two. The company at present is carrying out a production schedule of four planes per week, this schedule having been announced last June 7. With the completion of the addition to the plant, plans for which already have been drawn up, a production program of one plane a day will be possible.

THE addition will increase the plant's floor space by 124 per cent and will permit the construction of everything pertaining to the overall layout, on the Dearborn Airport. About 400 of the 1,850 men now employed in the company's airplane division are located for the present at the River Rouge automobile plant, fabricating most parts and sub-assemblies. This move will cause a material reduction in production cost.

The company's announcement is to the contemplated addition reads as follows:

"All of the present buildings at the site of the Ford aviation activities will be retained and additional production will be made on a larger scale the efficient production and subsequent parts forward assembly."

"All airplane manufacturing operations will be concentrated in the single factory in Dearborn. Previous will be made for the production there of parts now being made in the Hange plant of the Ford Motor Company, while facilities for the building and fitting of the cabin interiors of the big air transports will be so arranged that twelve planes may be handled on the tree line at the same time."

"Accidentally, the plant addition will be of the style dictated by the airplane. They will conform in general appearance to the fuselage and to the Ford experimental laboratories in the immediate vicinity of the airplane factory, being long and low so as to combine an interior for assembly and for fitting parts at the airport and on hoppers to the wide railway tracks for flying."

"The big increase in floor space will make possible the

production of one air-ground, air-aerial air transport a day. Throughout the early part of the year, the production schedule has been three planes a week, but a short time ago the rate was stepped up by an additional plane weekly.

"Building plans call for the erection behind the present factory of a new building the present one is and immediately connected with it as to enable the floor space of the plant. In addition, on the north end the building will be extended to within about 90 ft of Airport Drive, giving still more floor space. On the north end of the present plant a massive floor will be built to extend southward a distance of six days."

"When completed the factory will extend 600 ft along Oakwood Boulevard and 335 ft along Airport Drive. Its exterior will be of the same materials as were used in the present structure. Refined limestone and fire-day brick, with steel mesh and doors and cement tiled roof. The exceptional lighting arrangement and the ventilation system of the present factory will be carried out faithfully in the new building. At present the factory is 800 ft in length. The new building will be 140 ft longer. An entrance at the northwest corner, convenient to the intersection of Airport Drive and Oakwood Boulevard will admit to the general office, the accounting, engineering and store departments, the rest of the superintendent and others. The entrance floor will be devoted to the drafting room, employees' room, and other uses."

IN CONSIDERING the Ford production figures in relation to those of a majority of other aircraft manufacturers it is obvious that a number of factors must be taken into account. For the more reason that without cost and motor losses do not give the wide marketing field of the automobile, the large transport plane of the Ford type does not have the wide which is as lucrative to makers of sport type planes. Although the Ford Motor Company seems to have had no difficulty in disposing of all the planes the company has produced, its field of expansion is, nevertheless, limited because of the size and cost of planes of its type. True, this field has grown enormously during the past year, and probably will continue to expand for many more years, but the fact remains that the company's production program has been and must be dictated in some degree by the demand at hand. By its efforts, as evidenced with the efforts of the military as a whole, the Ford Motor Company has been a potential shoulder to the wheel, and assisted to an undeniable extent in the task of meeting the present demand. And without for a moment relinquishing any part of its share of the burden, the company now is beginning to reap the rewards of its labors.

Another factor that has checked the company's production capacity is this: "We're not for our system of community relief and improving our product," a prominent Ford airplane officer recently told the writer, our captain, "since we have concentrated on the aircraft type, would have been much larger. The large government of design and refinement of character has been, and still is being made, despite a clamor for greater production. The tri-angled Ford of today is a result of evolution, the tri-angled type was standardized by us; as there has been no product that can be termed a 'new model' or a radical departure from the several products immediately preceding it. First type streamliner, longer wings, rounded wing tips, landing lights, changes in the depth of chord, new measurements in the cabin

and fuselage, new paneling inside the cabin, new engines, new instruments and many other new features were introduced gradually and at such times as their beneficial introduction occurred to the company."

"No money is being spent to make the Ford tri-angled monoplane the greatest in the world. Since the introduction of the first model 4-A-T the gross load has been considerably increased while the weight of the airplane itself has been materially reduced without sacrifice of strength."

IT IS INTERESTING, then, the achievements of Henry and Edsel Ford in the field of aviation, we note, first of all, the vast number of Liberty eagles being produced to build during the World War. Then we see them helping to finance the experiments of William B. Stout, later supplying him with a factory building and an airport. Next we see them purchase several Stout transport planes and begin their own inter-continental aerial express line. Then they decided to become the first to carry the mails in a private transport plane, and, hence, over which, to date, their planes have flown nearly 1,500,000 miles.

Subsequently we witness the purchase of the Stout Metal Plane Company, indicating that the Fords had stepped into the aviation industry with both feet. Next we see Edsel B. Ford purchasing the first commercial airplane reliability test, an annual check that probably has meant more toward the development of reliability and efficiency in America's commercial aircraft than any other one competition event. A few months later a fire destroys the original Stout plant and the Fords replace it immediately with a plant of which any industry would be proud. The Fords then announce that their production will be confined to the multi-engine class, in which, to date, they have produced more than 135 planes valued at nearly \$5,000,000. Meanwhile, their production has increased from four planes a year in the present program at four planes a week, with the indication that it soon will be one plane a day.

Meanwhile, also, the Fords have developed their airport, equipped it with every modern airport device and making of it one of the largest in the country. They have, as well, invested countless thousands of dollars in many experiments and projects new to the industry. Lighter-than-air craft, auto communication and direction finding, meteorology, diesel and radial air-cooled engines, anti-aircraft. Five planes, and virtually every conceivable form of aeronautical research has consumed and still is consuming much of the Ford's time and money.

Aviation is an "infant industry" no longer. Today aviation is in the hands of "big business" and through the wisdom of that same business it is one of the fastest growing industries in the world. Even though the Ford Motor Company should completely withdraw from the field today, aviation, the industry, even the company, a great deal for being the first of the "big business" interest in aviation, in 1933, the aeronautical days.

Therefore, in closing, we repeat the assertion made in the very first paragraph of the first part of these articles, that "probably no single event, except for the entry of the government into the air mail field here more significant was this country's aviation industry up to 1935 than that Henry Ford's defuncted dream, published in the Ford News, Aug. 8, 1925, that his company had launched into the airplane manufacturing business."

This is the eighth and last of the series of articles by Mr. Hank which have been appearing in AVIATION.



An view of Ford Airport showing hangars and runways.























## SIDE SLIPS

By  
Robert R. Osborn

A PERSPECTIVE provided by the airplane in the space a few weeks ago that pilots at the National Air Races be put through a suitability test. (Anonymous) suggests the following figure of merit for the pilots of the First Tour:

Number of thirty pilots  $\times$  Number of stop-overs = Figure of merit.  
Displacement (3000 feet)  $\times$  Distance available

That great fall in the price of all aeronautical stocks, you noticed recently, was caused by the announcement that the Lewis of New York, might have to stop all flying—possibly in the whole eastern section of the United States so far as he knew. "He quits the maps," as reported on the New York Times. "For some time people thought it was inevitable and it would be over participating to adjust to flying, but now there seems to be a wave of despair throughout the country."

We've entered our seventieth two and we're awfully, awfully busy about it. We'll bet the attendance at the National Air Races, has taken off to 200,000 people a day this year, compared to 50,000 a day last year. We suppose the only one will be the old Lusitania knot.

Mr. W. J. D. of Pittsburgh sends in a clipping from a local paper stating: "It was not long before it is discovered that the Goli Zepherus was reported for at sea."

This is quite the opposite of the policy of caution practiced by "the world's most conservative newspaper correspondent" as discovered by a New York newspaper which received a message from him from one of the mid-Atlantic islands. "Large dirigible passing overhead, believed to be the Goli Zepherus."

One frequently hears the comment that "the accomplishments of the military and racing planes of today leave the commentators at sea in a sea of confusion" and another news dispatch just came in the office that proves the truth of this assertion. A man was seen by the Navy pilots at the National Air Races was performing such sharp turns together and over the crowd! "Excellent, One—over the first time since the duty air service between Montreal and New York was inaugurated on October 1, 1938, a two-day mission was necessary to accommodate passengers who were unable to secure reservations on the regular mail

plane. The plane left within a few minutes of each other, carrying over seven hundred persons.

Apparently our readers (it seems there are two or three) think we aren't making enough comparisons and speculations, so there is a continual demand that we start other societies or newspapers to educate scattered pilots, regular or mail pilots who always complain of local news. M.S.P. of Wright Field Dayton Ohio, writes something that about effectiveness airplanes that way their only and sure is the clipping that called his attention to this morning conference. "Some witnesses claimed that his plane was hovering in static attitude and was handicapped by a pronounced wobble in its landing."

We agree with M.S.P. that in the air is no place for attention of any sort and can relate an embarrassing incident that happened to a friend of mine from the same cause. He had taken off in a two-engine plane for a coast country. After a while he stopped, started moving his left around in a tight sort of way. Not coming for such playing around when there was serious business to be done, our friend turned back to the airport and landed. On coming up to the hangar he discovered that the complete rear end of the fuselage had been left back, where he first landed and was as described the incident that it took half of a pack of Marmite to overcome his embarrassment.

Mr. L. C. of Union, N. Y., writes as follows: "The second expedition of the first team was started by the appearance of a Gipsy Moth plane from here for the occasion by Joseph L. Lyons, chief pilot of the Syracuse branch of the Curtiss company. Lyons was asked on the pretext of the plane in Cliving Square Syracuse, by Mayor Charles G. Hanna of this city and then was taken to Syracuse airport. Landing at Union Municipal airport the plane was taken by truck to the expedition grounds in Broad Street where the plane was removed by Mayor Fred J. Roth."

The pilot, we presume, has been taken to the Washington office of the N. A. A. where he is being celebrated.

Roscoe's Field Flying School is giving a flying course to a series of radio pilots, which accounts for the story about a mysterious engine over the Long Island Sound recently. The pilot of this ship is reported to have dropped a message saying that he was a student of the radio course and had taken off at the beginning of the course. Because of static interference, apparently, he wasn't right on his feet and the school didn't send him a report on that particular lecture as he had an exceptional class engagement in three days and would like to get down.

"B" of Minneapolis, Cal. writes us to report about the authenticity of an airplane record he discovered in a San Francisco paper. "The story is 25,000 feet when we can see a small and light wing plane."

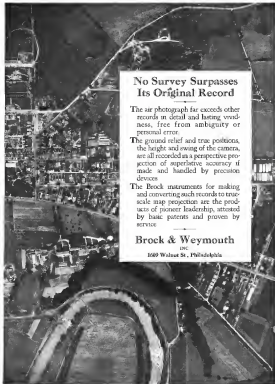
We have looked about among our friends and we agree that the pilot quoted in this dispatch must be wrong as all of them said they had never experienced a wind and lightning storm at 25,000 feet.

Mr. W. J. W. of Detroit Municipal Airport sends us a bit of a mystery to be solved by our Sherlock Holmes and Dr. Watson department. In describing one of the airplanes submitted to the Cessna-Sole Aircraft Competition last year says:

"An airplane whose pilot was increase or decrease the life of its wings by changing their curvature in flight, has been a surprising feat."

and another says: "Recent tests are being conducted here with some solar instruments known as Alkali, built by a Cleveland engineer. A feature of the ship's successful radical design is that the pilot can increase or decrease the lift of the wings by changing the curvature in them."

Our extensive files have not yet turned up a complete report but their messages look to headquarters indicate they are working on the theory that the current wind is "left" derived from the German word "Left Hand" meaning "to serve a wing."



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Landing Gear	8 ft. Type	8 ft. Type
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On the flight from Philadelphia to Cleveland a Mono Aircraft piloted by the Stewart took second place, to did the Mono Aircraft piloted by Leslie Brearley on the flight from Miami Beach to Cleveland.

Mono Aircraft planes are designed and engineered especially for the private flyer. Their popularity and approval is generally due to the superior advantages they offer in performance, safety, ease of control, comfort, speed and economy. They represent the highest performance and controlling values in aviation today.

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27

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Illustration on left  
shows a passenger  
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